CLAIMS:

1. A lift assembly comprising a chassis supporting a load bearing member, the chassis having a main member on which are mounted a drive arrangement for driving the lift along a rail and a further arrangement for engagement with the rail, characterised in that the further arrangement comprising a rail engaging member and means for linearly moving the rail engaging member in a vertical direction whereby to alter the orientation of the main member so as, in use, to maintain horizontal the loading bearing member.

2. A lift assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the drive and further arrangements is pivotable about a vertical axis with respect to the main member of the chassis.

3. A lift assembly according to claim 1 or 2, and comprising an electronic control unit for controlling operation of the means for linearly moving the rail engaging member of the further arrangement.

4. A lift assembly according to claim 3, wherein the electronic control unit comprises means for recording data representative of the position of the lift assembly along the rail and also the position of the means for linearly moving the rail engaging member of the further assembly.

5. A lift assembly according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the further arrangement comprises an additional rail engaging member, and a mechanical linkage is provided for altering the orientation of the additional rail

engaging member in response to linear movement of the first-mentioned rail engaging member.

6. A stair lift comprising a lift assembly according to any one of the preceding claims and a rail provided with a rack arranged to be in engagement with the drive arrangement or the chassis.

7. A stair lift according to claim 6, wherein the rail is provided with a load bearing surface extending parallel to but spaced from the rack.

8. A stair lift according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the derive and further arrangements are disposed on the main member so as to receive at least part of the rail between the arrangements and the main member.